Land with Department of Posts

4985. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA :
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts is owing a large chunk of real estate lands in prime localities of the urban areas;

(b) if so, the details of the lands available with the Department of Posts in all the major cities of the country,

(c) whether his Ministry has any plans to utilise the above lands to earn additional revenue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Sir, Department of Posts owns land in some urban areas for construction of departmental buildings.

(b) Details of lands available with the Department of Posts in all the major cities of the country are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 198, Annexure No. 21].

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Waiting list for telephone connections in Kerala

4986. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala has the longest waiting list for new telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the waiting list to the minimum level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) An analysis of waiting list for Kerala Teleco Circle as on 31-3-2003 is as under :

No. of applicants waiting for less than one year	169491
No. of applicants waiting for 1 -2 years	99762
No. of applicants waiting for 2-3 years	78234
No. of applicants waiting for 3-4 years	69592
No. of applicants waiting for 4-5 years	31005
No. of applicants waiting for more than 5 years	39415
Total	**487499**

Out of total of 4.88 lakh waiting list, 0.86 lakh are in urban areas and 4.02 lakh in rural areas. It is evident that most of this waiting list is scattered in rural areas. BSNL has provided 15.20 lakh rural DELs in Kerala upto 31-03-2003 during the last five years, eventhough provisioning of DELs in the rural areas in un-remunerative. The phone to the other wait listed applicants in rural areas so far could not be possible due to non availability/constraints of funds for this purpose. BSNL has sought reliefs from the Government for providing services in un-remunerative areas. The waiting list in most of the rural areas may be reduced subject to reliefs sought from the Government are made available to BSNL. It may get further reduced if the private operators granted license for basic services commence operations.

(c) During the year 2003-04, BSNL has fixed a Tentative Target of providing 6.21 lakh connections in Kerala Circle on Fixed Line, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS).

Share of IT in GDP

†4987. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product of the country is being spent on Information Technology;

(b) if not Government's assessment in this regard;

† The original notice of the question was received in Hindi.